

have traditionally lacked extensive medical and health services.

With a mission to improve the quality of life for Medicaid recipients and other medically underserved citizens by elevating their health status, MHS, under Ms. Clark's stewardship, has designed a health plan that seeks to increase its members' utilization of services by helping them foster a relationship with a primary care physician, educating them about the importance of wellness and preventive care and offering them a series of creative outreach and case management programs.

Ms. Clark brings extensive experience in health care management to MHS. A graduate of Rider College and the Columbia School of Business, Ms. Clark was senior vice president for Healthcare Management Alternatives [HMA], an innovative inner-city health plan in Philadelphia, from 1989 to 1993. At HMA, Ms. Clark was responsible for quality assurance, utilization review, and provider relations for approximately 85,000 residents of South and West Philadelphia.

Prior to joining HMA, Ms. Clark served at Travelers Health Network of New York from 1987 to 1989, initially as director of operations and provider relations and then as executive director. As executive director, she was responsible for development and maintenance of the provider network for the Travelers' managed health care division in Metropolitan New York and northern New Jersey.

Ms. Clark has also exemplified her pioneering spirit through prior positions with such companies as Whittaker Health Services, Interracial Council for Business Opportunity, Managed Health Plan, Health Insurance Plan of Greater New York, Manhattan Health Plan, and Lancaster & Co.

As a shining beacon of hope, Karen Clark has made a difference through her tireless undaunted mission to improve the health of urban communities faced with diminished resources. I am pleased to introduce her to my House colleagues.

#### THE JOHNSTOWN ASSOCIATION OF LIFE UNDERWRITERS 75TH ANNI- VERSARY

HON. JOHN P. MURTHA

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, August 2, 1996*

Mr. MURTHA. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity before the House to congratulate the men and women of the Johnstown Association of Life Underwriters on its 75th anniversary.

JALU was founded in 1921. Since that time it has been a dedicated community service-oriented organization, coordinating numerous public service efforts over the years with the Salvation Army, the St. Vincent DePaul food banks, and New Day.

The organization, whose members are from Cambria, Somerset, and Bedford Counties in my home State of Pennsylvania, has won numerous national and state awards for public service throughout its existence. For the past 3 years, the JALU has been working to raise funds to establish the first scholarship fund for Cambria County Area Community College.

One of the most notable activities in which they engage annually is hosting a summer pic-

nic for underprivileged children. It means so much to those kids to know that these adults care about them—it makes such an impact on those young lives that I can't emphasize enough its importance. It's that kind of involvement in the community that we need more of and I want to applaud and thank this organization for its service in that regard.

I also want to applaud their tenacity in the face of economic hardship and corporate downsizing within the insurance industry because they've been able to keep their agencies open and continue to provide the kind of professional service the area needs and has come to rely on.

#### A CELEBRATION OF LIFE

HON. JUANITA MILLENDER-McDONALD

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, August 2, 1996*

Ms. MILLENDER-McDONALD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate my daughter and son-in-law, Angela McDonald Thomas and Juan Demeris Thomas, on the birth of their child, my new granddaughter, Ramia Regina McDonald Thomas. Ramia was born on Tuesday, July 23, 1996, at 10:07 p.m. at the Sutter Roseville Hospital in Roseville, CA, weighing 8 lbs., 4 oz., and 20.5 inches in length.

The relationship between grandmother and grandchild is a special one and the bond between grandmother and granddaughter is one that has been cherished by millions of women around the world. I shall love Ramia and cherish every moment that we spend together. I shall do my best to provide her with the benefit of whatever knowledge that I have gained over the years. I will share with her many good experiences, as well as those that I wish to forget and hopefully be a bridge to our family's past. Once Ramia is armed with the knowledge of her forebears, she can chart a course for her future.

In Africa, a family's wealth was judged by the number of children and grandchildren they had. By my heritage, I am a wealthy woman. I have five wonderful children, Valerie, Angela, Sherryl, Keith, my daughter-in-law Lori Blair McDonald, and son-in-law Juan Demeris Thomas of whom I am proud. They have blessed me with Ayanna Damaris McDonald Thomas, Myles Chandler Millender McDonald, Diamond Sequoia Short (adopted), and new Ramia, four wonderful grandchildren. My husband Jim and I thank God for each and every one of them and we will love them for as long as they shall live.

#### IMPROVING ACCESS TO CLINICAL TRIALS FOR ENROLLEES OF FEDERAL HEALTH PROGRAMS

HON. NANCY L. JOHNSON

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, August 2, 1996*

Mrs. JOHNSON of Connecticut. Mr. Speaker, today I am introducing two bills to give Americans covered by Federal health insurance programs access to peer-reviewed clinical trials when no standard therapies are available to treat their very serious medical conditions.

The first bill would require the Medicare, Federal employee and military health plans, and the Department of Veterans Affairs to cover the medical costs associated with the clinical investigation. In addition, the bill ensures that Federal matching funds under Medicaid would be available to States electing to cover clinical trials in their Medicaid programs. Finally, the bill requires the Secretary of Health and Human Services to make available information about on-going clinical investigations and the results of those studies.

The second bill is limited to a Medicare demonstration project covering clinical trials for cancer treatment.

Both bills stipulate that the Federal Government is only to pay for routine medical costs associated with the patient's treatment, such as hospital room and board, and radiology and laboratory services to monitor the patient's condition. The Federal Government would not be paying for the cost of the investigational agent itself.

Tragically, many patients must turn down these opportunities because they cannot afford to pay the routine costs associated with the clinical trial—a terrible irony, in my opinion, as these plans will cover the same medical treatment if it were provided as part of standard medical therapy.

Until a new therapy, technique or device is proven, many private payers of health care will cover the patient's medical costs. Therefore, I am pleased that one of my home State insurers, Aetna, has been a leader in working with researchers to pay some of the costs of patients enrolled in clinical studies. Such access gives these patients hope that their medical conditions may be improved or even cured, when no other door is open to them.

Mr. Speaker, the Federal Government already funds potentially life-saving clinical research every year, but bringing breakthroughs into standard medical practice requires these investigations. These initiatives back up the Federal Government's investment in the basic research with financial backing to bring these promises to fruition.

#### REPEAL OF THE BEER TAX

HON. RICHARD E. NEAL

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, August 2, 1996*

Mr. NEAL of Massachusetts. Mr. Speaker, today I am introducing legislation which would reduce the excise tax on beer from \$18 to \$9 a barrel. The Omnibus Reconciliation Act of 1990 doubled the excise tax on beer to \$18 a barrel. The Omnibus Budget Reconciliation Act of 1990 included provisions commonly referred to as "luxury taxes" on high-priced items such as boats, furs, and automobiles. All of these luxury taxes have been reviewed by Congress. For example, today we passed the Small Business Job Protection Act of 1996 which includes a phaseout of the luxury automobile excise tax. The automobile excise tax is the last luxury tax still in effect.

I believe it is time for Congress to look at a repeal of the beer tax. The tax increase of 1990 doubled the tax on beer. Currently, consumers pay 32.6 cents per six pack. This legislation would reduce the tax to 16.3 cents a six pack. The beer tax is an example of an excise tax which affects the average working American.